

## **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Greater Vancouver Region**

*Susan Haid\*, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Policy and Planning*

Keywords: Biodiversity, partners, habitat mapping, ecosystem, indicator species, landscape

Fragmentation of the landscape and the loss of habitat and ecological function from development, changes in climate and other factors threaten the biodiversity and ecological viability of the Greater Vancouver Region. Partners are working under the Georgia Basin Action Plan to develop a Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. The purpose is to assess regional biodiversity in Greater Vancouver and develop coordinated strategies to conserve it while integrating diverse land uses and environmental, social and economic objectives. Project partners include: the Greater Vancouver Regional District, Environment Canada, Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection and the Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program - Fraser River Estuary Management Program. Representatives from member municipalities, non-governmental organizations and post-secondary institutions are also actively participating. This pilot project will stimulate and advise the preparation of other biodiversity conservation strategies throughout the Georgia Basin. Significant technical work and consultation has been undertaken to date. A draft strategy will be completed in 2005. This presentation will share recent results of the regional biodiversity assessment and mapping which is being used to guide the development of specific strategies, implementation and monitoring measures. A case study within a highly urbanized watershed in the region will be showcased. Analyses of major habitat types, regional core habitats, refuges and corridors, indicator species, relative biodiversity and an evaluation of ecological services provided by tree coverage will be shared. Lessons learned and challenges will be discussed.